

# Jiamao language

**Jiamao** (Chinese: 加茂; pinyin: *Jiāmào*, *Jiamao*; also 台 *Tái* or 塞 *Sāi*<sup>[3][4]</sup>) is a Kra-Dai language or possible language isolate spoken in southern Hainan, China.<sup>[5][6]</sup> Jiamao speakers' autonym is *tʰai¹*.<sup>[7][8]</sup>

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## Classification

Jiamao was long thought to be one of the Hlai languages, which are a subgrouping of the Kra–Dai family, but its many divergent words eventually lead Graham Thurgood (1992) to suggest that it might have an Austroasiatic substratum. Norquest (2007) identified various lexical items in Jiamao that do not reconstruct to Proto-Hlai and later firmly established it as a non-Hlai language.<sup>[9]</sup> Hsiu (2018)<sup>[10]</sup> notes that Jiamao also contains various words borrowed from an unknown, currently extinct Tibeto-Burman branch.

## Demographics

In the 1980s, Jiamao was spoken by 50,000 people in central and south-central Hainan, mostly in Jiamao Township (加茂镇) in Baoting Li and Miao Autonomous County. It shares less than half of its lexicon with the Hlai languages.<sup>[11]</sup>

In Lingshui Li Autonomous County, Jiamao is spoken in Benhao 本号, Nanping 南平, Wenluo 文罗, Zuguan 祖关, Longguang 隆广, and Tianzi 田仔.<sup>[12]</sup> In Lingshui County, Jiamao is known as *Tái* 台, and is also known as *Sāi* 塞 or *Jiāwǒ* 加我.<sup>[3]</sup> In Qiongzhong Li and Miao Autonomous County, it is spoken in Zhongping Town 中平镇 and Shengpo Farm 乘坡农场, in a total of 30 villages.<sup>[13]</sup>

There are four Jiamao dialects,<sup>[14][15]</sup> namely Jiamao 加茂, Liugong 六弓, Tianzi 田仔, and Qunying 群英.<sup>[4]</sup>

Jiamao is spoken in the following villages and townships of southern Hainan.<sup>[16]</sup>

- Baoting Li and Miao Autonomous County 保亭黎族苗族自治县
  - Jiamao Township 加茂乡
  - Liugong Township 六弓乡

Jiamao	
Sai 塞	
Native to	China
Region	Hainan
Native speakers	(52,000 cited 1987) <sup>[1]</sup>
Language family	<div>Kra–Dai <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li> Hlai-Jiamao (?)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Jiamao</b></li></ul></li></ul></div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	jio
Glottolog	jiam1236 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/jiam1236) <sup>[2]</sup>

- Shiling Town 什玲镇 (in Jie 介村 and Shisheng 什胜村 villages)
- Lingshui Li Autonomous County 陵水黎族自治县
  - Longguang Town 隆广镇
  - Benhao Town 本号镇
- Sanya 三亚市
  - Haitangwan Town 海棠湾镇 (northeastern part: in Longtoucai 龙头菜村, Xiepei 协配村, and Maohou 毛喉村 villages)

The Liaoergong 廖二弓 dialect is documented in Huang (2011).<sup>[17]</sup>

## Further reading

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## See also

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- Jiamao vocabulary lists (Wiktionary)

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